

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 698

S E C R E T CAIRO 9978

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: STUDENT AND WORKERS UNREST OVER GOE

POLICIES

REF: CAIRO 9675

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ASHRAF MARWAN
TODAY, AMBASSADOR ALLUDED TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS OF A FEW DAYS
AGO ABOUT TROUBLE THAT "COMMUNIST" ACTIVITIES AMONG STUDENTS
AND LABORERS IN PARTICULAR ARE CURRENTLY CAUSING. AMBASSADOR
ASKED IF MARWAN COULD ELABORATE. MARWAN ECHOED THE CHARGE
THA "COMMUNISTS" ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE AMONG STUDENTS AND
LABORERS. THEY ARE ALLEGEDLY HAMMERING ON SEVERAL THEMES:
TOWARD THE USG. ON THE CONTRARY, BY ALIENATING USSR, IT HAS
LOST ADVANTAGES WHICH IT HAD EARLIER ENJOYED. SINCE JANUARY
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI. ON CONTRARY, SITUATION HAS BECOME FROZEN.
NOR HAS USG PROVIDED

ANY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. USG CONTINUES BE TOTALLY PARTISAN TO
ISRAEL AND AGAINST PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. RECENT RETRACTION OF
SEEMINGLY PRO-PALESTINIAN STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN LEADERS
ATTESTS TO CONTINUED BIAS USG POLICY. PRESIDENT FORD'S PUBLIC
CENSURE OF GENERAL BROWN FOR LATTER'S REMARKS ARE ALLEGEDLY
CITED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THIS. MOREOVER, AS RESULT
OF SADAT'S POLICY SHIFT, NO NEW MILITARY OR ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY SOVIETS. EGYPTIAN MILITARY
HAS BEEN BADLY WEAKENED, WHILE ISRAELI MILITARY CONTINUES TO BE

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MASSIVELY STRENGTHENED BY US. ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL CAN ONLY

BE ACHIEVED BY FULL COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS AND THROUGH MEDIUM OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. SECOND, BASIC COMMODITY SHORTAGES AND INFLATION ARE BEING SEIZED UPON THE PRESIDENT AND HEGAZY CABINET ARE BEING CRITICIZED FOR FAILURE TO CONTROL INFLATION. UNDERLYING THEME OF LEFTIST CHARGES, ACCORDING TO MARWAN, IS THAT USG COULD, IF IT WISHED, PROVIDE BASIC ESSENTIALS TO PREVENT SUCH COMMODITY SHORTAGES AND INFLATION, BUT IS DELIVERATELY NOT DOING SO. NIXON'S "PROMISES" WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE HONORED. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS ARE CRITICIZING CURRENT SHORTAGES OF TEXTBOOKS, TEXTS, NOTEBOOKS AND STUDENT ACCESSORIES.

4. THIRD, STUDENTS AND WORKERS ARE CHARGING WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT. THE RICH ARE GETTING RICHER AND THE POOR, POORER. THIS CRITICISM HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE PRESIDENT'S ATTENTION, MARWAN OBSERVED. THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED FOR EVIDENCE. HE HAD REFUSED TO ACT ON THE BASIS OF RUMORS. MARWAN CONCEDED CORRUPTION IS TAKING PLACE, BUT CLAIMED NO HARD EVIDENCE HAD BEEN ADDUCED TO INCRIMINATE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS. A NUMBER OF FOREIGN COMPANIES, INCLUDING AMERICAN, HAD BEEN ASKED ABOUT KICKBACK DEMANDS, BUT ALL HAD REFUSED TO REPLY EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT MEAN LOSS OF CONTRACT.

5. FOURTH, STUDENTS AND LABORERS ARE CRITICISING RECENT SUGGESTION THAT ASU NO LONGER BE SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY AND THAT DUAL OR MULTI PARTY SYSTEM BE ESTABLISHED. THIS IDEA HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE AMIN BROTHERS. STUDENTS AND LABORERS ARE ALLEGEDLY CHARGING THAT AMINS ARE IN USG PAY AND THAT THERE RECOMMENDATIONS IS BEING MADE AT BEHEST OF US GOVT. A "WESTERN AMBASSADOR"-- NOT US AMBASSADOR--IS REPORTEDLY BEING QUOTED AS HAVING PUBLICLY SUPPORTED MULTIPLE PARTY SYSTEM IN PLACE ASU.

6. MARWAN INDICAED GOE IS WATCHING " COMMUNIST" ACTIVITIES AMONG STUDENTS AND LABORERS AND WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN DUE COURSE.

7. COMMENT: ABOVE IS MARWAN'S VERSION OF CAUSES
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OF CURRENT LEFTIST-INSPIRED STUDENT AND LABORERS' UNREST. WHILE IT IS CLEARLY TAILED FOR OUR EARS, OTHER REPORTS WE HAVE SUGGEST THE SEVERAL THEMES CITED BY HIM ARE CORRECT, AT LEAST IN THRUST IF NOT ALWAYS IN DETAIL. WITH BREZHNEV COMING IN MID-JANUARY, LEFTISTS ARE CLEARLY ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THEY CAN ACT WITH IMPUNITY AND USG IS PREDICTABLE WHIPPING BOY. MARWAN MADE HIS COMMENT ABOUT CHARGES OF CORRUPTION WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH, ALTHOUGH HE IS SURELY AWARE THAT HE,

PERSONALLY, IS BEING WIDELY CHARGED AMONG EGYPTIAN PUBLIC WITH
BEING ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CULPRITS.

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